In response to the Office Action dated March 14, 2001 (Paper No. 19), please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 8, 9 and 23-28 , without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein.

Please amend Claims 2, 10 and 11 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of these claims, showing the changes made thereto, is attached.

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2. (Three Times Amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.

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10. (Three Times Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising 15 mer portion of the nucleotide sequence of DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a nucleotide sequence complementary to DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA

encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;

using said oligonuleotides in a reverse-transcription-polymerase chain reaction to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:1; and

determining an IgA in said patient based on a result of said reverse-transcription-polymerase claim reaction.

11. (Three Time Amended) A diagnostic method for detecting an IgA nephropathy in a patient, comprising:

selecting an oligonucleotide comprising a 15 mer portion of a nucleotide sequence complementary to DNA selected from the group consisting of DNA encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2, DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1, and DNA which hybridizes with the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1 under stringent conditions;

using said olignucleotide in a Northern blot to detect mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and

determining an IgA nephropathy in said patient based on a result of said Northern blot.